

# **DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

## **Happy Holidays**

With the beautiful weather lasting for so long, the end of the calendar year and the holiday season seemed to arrive quickly. On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to wish each of you a very safe and restful holiday season, and all of the very best in the New Year! We look forward to an exciting year ahead for our school community! Thank you for the tremendous support you have shown our staff and our students. The School will be closed from Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, until Friday, January 5, 2018, for the Christmas Holidays. The first day of class for students in the New Year will be Monday, January 8, 2018.

Mr. Pink and the Staff at GVDPS

## **Progress Report Cards**

Thank you to all parents for joining us for our parent teacher interviews at the end of November. If you were not able to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the teacher to set up a time to meet. Parents are reminded to please sign and return one of the copies of the Provincial Progress Report Card that was sent home.

## **Absences and late arrivals**

Cold and flu season is now upon us. Please remember to call our school attendance line at 519 928 2172 if your child is going to be absent from school or late arriving.

## **Remembrance Day Assembly**

Classes participated in a Remembrance Day service on November 10th. Ms. Togeretz's Grade 2/3 class organized and lead the assembly with Madam Bryan helping out with technology parts of the presentation. Our students also participated in the local Remembrance Day Ceremony on Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> at the cenotaph in Grand Valley. Our school was well represented with student readers and members of the Air Cadets in attendance.

## **Kindergarten Registration Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Eligible students for the Junior Kindergarten Program must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2018 and students must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2018, to register for Senior Kindergarten. Registration will take place January 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Students currently in JK will automatically be registered for Senior Kindergarten. Parents will need proof of residence, their child's Birth Certificate and Immunization records for registration. We look forward to meeting you!

## **Christmas Gifts**

At this festive time of year, many families in our community, as well as those abroad, struggle to put food on their tables and to provide the necessities of life. As such, staff members are suggesting that, in lieu of a Christmas gift, families consider making a donation to one of the following: a charity of your choice, CONCERN, or the Upper Grand Learning Foundation. For those who are not aware of it, the Upper Grand Learning Foundation enables parents to make donations directly to the school and receive a charitable gift tax receipt. If interested please check out the following website: <http://uppergrandlearningfoundation.com>

## **Highlights of Bullying Prevention Week at GVDPS**

**Wear Pink Day** On Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Staff and Students wore pink to show their support in the fight against Bullying.

### **Social Media Fitness: Chris Vollum**

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, students from grades 4 to 8 participated in a discussion about the appropriate use of social media. Topics covered included: Mental Health; Stress and Anxiety, How Students are Evaluated, Online, Building a Sustainable Reputation, 4 Prominent Social Platforms, Daily Habits; Important vs Urgent, Achieve Balance; less screen time, Increase Online Confidence & Skill.

## **Upper Grand Mobile App**

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to parent engagement and ensuring strong lines of communication between home and school. We are pleased to introduce our new School Messenger Parent Application, which is now available for parents. The Upper Grand Mobile App allows parents to receive communications from their school(s) immediately on their mobile device.

The Upper Grand Mobile App is free and available in both Android and iOS. Use the search term "Upper Grand" in either the iTunes store or Google Play.

Download the app and once installed the app will appear as an icon on your phone. Click on the app to open.

The first time you open you will need to click on the Start-up set up link to see a list of schools. You may select more than one school. To select, slide the button to the right.

Once you have selected your school(s) use the arrow in the top left corner to return to the home page.

Select the News and Calendar icons to get the latest information. The Transportation icon will update you on bus cancellations. We hope this new communication tool will be useful for you and your family.

## **Bus Cancellations**

During times of inclement weather, there are a number of ways to obtain information regarding bus cancellations and/or school closures for both bus and town students: Our school is in the Green Zone.

### **1. RADIO STATIONS**

1460 AM CJOY	106.1 Magic FM
680 AM CFTR	99.1 FM CBC
A Channel or CKCO-TV	News Talk 570 AM
96.7 FM CHYM	98.1 FM CHFI

**2. BOARD WEBSITE** - [www.ugdsb.on.ca](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca) and click on the yellow school bus on the right hand side.

**3. Twitter** -Follow us on Twitter for the latest bus cancellation info @GrandvalleyDPS. or, Student Transportation Services @stwdsts.

**4. Subscription Services for Bus Delays and Cancellations-** receive this information from Student Transportation Service via email. To subscribe go to: <https://www.findmyschool.ca/subscriptions/login.aspx> and follow the instructions.

## **Library News!**

Thank you everyone for supporting our school's book fair again this year. Mrs. Kocher greatly appreciated all the volunteers who assisted her in running the book fair.

## **School Council**

We need Volunteers to help with Pizza Days, every Thursday. We are looking for some parent volunteers to come in from 11:50 -12:50 to help get the pizza delivery organized and out to classrooms. Please let us know if you are able to help out on any or all of our Pizza Days.

## **Partners in Education**

Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children and in the success of schools. Parent involvement includes a range of activities from good parenting, helping with homework, serving on school councils and board or provincial committees, communicating and meeting with teachers, and volunteering in the classroom or on school trips. Good schools are better where there is a stronger connection with parents as part of the learning environment.

School councils focus on engaging parents and fostering parental involvement within their school community as a key factor in assisting with student achievement.

Where does your role as a parent fit into this partnership?

Join other parents at the next school council meeting and be a more active partner in your child's / children's success at school. **Our next School Council will be on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:30pm.**

## **Grand Valley Christmas Concert**

The Canada 150 Committee & Friends are presenting a Christmas Concert at Grand Valley Public School on Friday, December 1, 2017 at 7:30pm. A free family evening of music, live performances, skits and recitations from the young and "young at heart" in Grand Valley.

## **Grand Valley Holiday Tree Lighting**

Sunday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> please come to the Pavilion at Water St & William St.

5:30 pm	Hot Chocolate, apple cider and cookies
6:00 pm	Carolling
6:30 pm	Tree Lighting.

Families can donate non-breakable ornaments to be placed on the tree, decorated how you wish with your family name. The ornaments will be re-cycled and re-used the following year.

## **Holiday Skating**

Free holiday skating at the Grand Valley Arena on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	1pm – 2:30pm
Wednesday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2018	1pm – 2:30pm

## **Breakfast With Santa**

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. The Annual Grand Valley Fire Fighters Breakfast with Santa at the Grand Valley Fire Hall. 8am – 10:30 am. Everyone is welcome.